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Signed:

Peter K. Trzyna (Reg. No. 32,801)

Date:

March 7, 2002

Patent

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors : Christopher Ewing
Serial No. : 09/295,230
Filed : 04/19/1999
Title : Blind Gift Method and System
Group Art Unit : 2161
Examiner : Thomas A. Dixon

The Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION OF PROFESSOR LEE A. HOLLAAR

S I R:

1. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.
2. I have personal knowledge of the subject matter of this declaration, and if called as a witness, would testify thereto.

3. My name is Lee A. Hollaar. I am a Professor of Computer Science in the School of Computing at the University of Utah, where I have been a faculty member since 1980. Prior to that, I was a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I received my Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1975. I am also a Registered Patent Agent.
4. As a professor at the Universities of Illinois and Utah, I have taught courses in software development, including courses where students had to complete software development projects.
5. I have been asked whether, in my opinion, this pending application meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, by providing a disclosure of the invention that is sufficient to enable a person skilled in the art of the invention to make and use the invention without undue experimentation.
6. In my opinion, the person skilled in the art of the invention would be an experience Internet web site developer who is familiar with CGI programs, databases, and HTML formatting, as well as the way that web clients and servers interoperate. However, the patent application is sufficiently clear and the programming is sufficiently straightforward that a person with lesser experience could also be able to make and use the invention without undue experimentation.
7. For example, an approximation of the person skilled in the art of the invention, or more likely one having even less skill, would be a computer science student, most likely a senior, taking a software development course (such as ones I have taught) that included the implementation of an Internet web site. Although such a student would not have the experience of one having ordinary skill in the relevant field (such as experience from previously implementing Internet web sites), such a student would have access to example web site implementations of approximately the same

complexity as the invention of this application, including web sit s that use databases and CGI programs.

8. Based on my review of the disclosure in this application, and in particular Fig. 5, it is my belief that if such a student were given the disclosure of this application as a programming assignment in one of my software development courses or the like, that student would be able to implement the claimed invention without undue experimentation. In fact, many programming assignments do not include the level of detail of the disclosure in this application, and yet students are expected to (and routinely do) complete those assignments without difficulty.
9. Based on the information above, it is my opinion that the disclosure in this application meets the enablement requirement of the first paragraph of Section 112.



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Date: March 3, 2002

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